

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IS
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS CARTER'S "MINOR ADJUSTMENTS" MAN
20-50 KILOMETERS

1. TODAY'S FRONT PAGES REPORT THAT SENIOR ADMINISTRATION
OFFICIALS HAVE EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S "MINOR
ADJUSTMENTS" OF THE 1967 BORDERS COULD MEAN CHANGES OF
20-50 KILOMETERS IN SOME AREAS IN FAVOR OF ISRAEL. ALSO,
ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, THE PRESIDENT HAD JORDAN IN
MIND WHEN HE EXPRESSED A NEED FOR A "PALESTINIAN HOMELAND."

2. A JERUSALEM POST ARTICLE SAYS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR
BREZEZINSKI TOLD LEADERS OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
THAT IN SAYING "HOMELAND" CARTER WAS REFERRING TO JORDAN
RATHER THAN TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE STATE.
DIFFERENT PAPERS VARIOUSLY REFERRED TO BRZEZINSKI OR A
"SENIOR ADMINISTRATION SOURCE" AS SAYING TO AMBASSADOR
DINITZ (OR "WASHINGTON DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES") THAT
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THE 1967 BORDERS ARE DEAD, BUT THE POST SAID THAT
SKEPTICISM ABOUT THIS INTERPRETATION WAS EXPRESSED
YERSTADAY BY (UNNAMED) ADMINISTRATION SOURCES WHO
FELT THAT THE 20-50 KILOMETER REPORT DID NOT REFLECT
THE GENERAL VIEWS OF THE ADMINISTRATION. WHILE GIVING
THE REPORTS WIDE COVERAGE, IN GENERAL THERE IS
A CERTAIN NOTE OF CAUTION IN THE PRESS TREATMENT. (IN

NO PAPER WAS IT THE PRINCIPAL STORY.) THIS AFTERNOON ISRAEL RADIO REPORTED A DENIAL FROM A NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SPOKESMAN THAT BRZEZINSKI HAD MADE THE STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO HIM.

3. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF EXCERPTS FROM THE YEDIOT AHARONOT ARTICLE (KIWITY) WHICH PROVIDED THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE STORY:

BEGIN TEXT

4. US PRESIDENT CARTER FEELS THAT THE BORDERS OF JUNE 4, 1967 ARE NOT DEFENSIBLE BORDERS, AND THAT THEY ARE "DEAD." HE BELIEVES THAT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF A FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT ISRAEL'S PERMANENT BORDERS WILL HAVE TO BE MOVED 20 KILOMETERS INTO ARAB TERRITORY IN SOME PLACES, AND 30 TO 50 KILOMETERS ELSEWHERE. THE US PRESIDENT ALSO STATED RECENTLY THAT HE CONSIDERS THE JORDAN RIVER TO BE ISRAEL'S NATURAL DEFENSE BORDER.

5. THESE OPINIONS OF PRESIDENT CARTER WERE REPORTED BY SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS IN A TALK WITH DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES, AT A RECEPTION WHICH TOOK PLACE RECENTLY IN WASHINGTON. THIS WRITER LEARNED THAT THE TALK WAS HELD IN THE COURSE OF A FESTIVE DINNER IN HONOR OF SENIOR OFFICIALS, TENDERED BY THE JOURNALISTS' ASSOCIATION.

6. ISRAEL RADIO ANNOUNCED LAST NIGHT THAT THE SENIOR UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFICIAL WHO SPOKE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S FEELINGS ON THIS QUESTION WAS THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISER ON NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, WHO HAD MADE HIS COMMENTS TO AMBASSADOR SIMCHA DINITZ.

7. DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES STATE THAT CARTER STILL DIFFERENTIATES BETWEEN POLITICAL PERMANENT BORDERS AND DEFENSE BORDERS EXTENDING BEYOND THEM. THE DEFENSE BORDERS, IN HIS OPINION, ARE INTENDED TO GUARANTEE ISRAEL'S SECURITY, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS NORMAL AND REGULAR RELATIONS WILL HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN ISRAEL AND HER NEIGHBORS, AND THERE WILL NO LONGER BE ANY NEED OF THESE DEFENSE BORDERS.

8. IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER BASED HIS THOUGHTS ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE 1967 BORDERS ARE NO LONGER DEFENSE BORDERS, AND WHEN HE SPEAKS OF "MINOR ADJUSTMENTS" FOLLOWING A "CONSIDERABLE" ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, HE

THINKS IN TERMS OF MOVING THE LINES IN CERTAIN LOCATIONS,
AND MOVING THEM AS FAR AS 30 OR EVEN 50 KILOMETERS.

9. THE CBS DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, MARVIN KALB,
YESTERDAY MADE A SIMILAR REPORT IN A LOCAL BROADCAST.
HE STATED THAT ISRAELI CIRCLES HAD REFUSED TO CONFIRM
THIS INFORMATION, BUT HAD EXPRESSED UNCONCEALED PLEASURE
OVER IT WHILE THE ARAB AMBASSADORS WITH WHOM HE HAD SPOKEN
HAD REFUSED TO EXPRESS ANY DIRECT REACTION, ALTHOUGH
THEY HAD NOT HIDDEN THEIR CONSTERNATION AND ANGER.

10. THE DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES STATES THAT IN THEIR EVALUATION
NO AMERICAN PRESIDENT HAD EVER FELT SUCH AN AFFINITY TOWARDS
ISRAEL AND EXPRESSED IT AS PRESIDENT CARTER HAS DONE, NOR HAS
THERE BEEN ONE WHOSE INVOLVEMENT IS "TO AN ETERNAL
ISRAEL." THIS IS AN APPROACH FOUNDED UPON RELIGIOUS
BELIEF, POLITICAL-STRATEGIC CONCEPT, AND SHARED VALUES.
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THESE CIRCLES STATE THAT PRESENT CARTER REGARDS ISRAEL
AS "A JEWEL SET IN THE CROWN OF THE WORLD'S COUNTRIES." THEY
FURTHER ESTIMATE THAT WITH REGARD TO IMPOSING A SETTLEMENT--
BOTH FROM THE PRINCIPLE AS WELL AS THE PRACTICAL ASPECT--
HE DOES NOT WISH THE US TO BE RESPONSIBLE IN PRACTICE FOR
THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTAINING OF AN IMPOSED SETTLEMENT.

11. HIS CONCEPT OF THE MEANING OF PEACE IS IDENTICAL WITH
THAT OF ISRAEL. HIS CONCEPT OF BORDERS HAS NOT
YET TAKEN FINAL SHAPE AND HE IS PURPOSELY NOT MAKING
ANY CLEAR STATEMENTS, BUT ONLY CREATING FRAMEWORKS AND
OUTLINES WITHIN WHICH THE SIDES WILL CONDUCT
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THEMSELVES. HE IS SIGNALING
TO THE ARABS WHAT PEACE SHOULD BE, AND TO ISRAELIS AND
ARABS WHAT THE NATURE OF BORDERS OUGHT TO BE.

12. DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THIS
IS ALSO CARTER'S APPROACH TO THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE:
ISRAEL CANNOT IGNORE IT, BUT THE PALESTINIANS MUST
ACCUSTOM THEMSELVES TO THE IDEA OF THEIR INTEGRATION
IN A "HOMELAND" IN THE JORDANIAN STATE. THE CIRCLES
STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT CARTER ALSO LEFT OPENINGS FOR
OTHER EVENTUALITIES, WITHOUT DETAILING WHAT THESE
WERE. THE FEELING IN THESE CIRCLES IS THAT BOTH
CARTER AND HIS ADVISER BRZEZINSKI HAVE MOVED AWAY FROM
THE CONCEPT OF ESTABLISHING A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN
STATE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN. END TEXT.
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